

E-filed on 7/14/06

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN JOSE DIVISION

**IN RE CYGNUS TELECOMMUNICATIONS
TECHNOLOGY, LLC, PATENT
LITIGATION**

No. MDL-1423
This Order Applies to All Actions

**THIS ORDER RELATES TO:
All Actions**

C-02-00142 RMW
C-02-00145 RMW
C-02-05437 RMW
C-03-03594 RMW
C-03-03596 RMW
C-03-03378 RMW
C-03-04003 RMW
C-03-05758 RMW
C-04-01791 RMW
C-04-03001 RMW
C-04-03365 RMW
C-04-04247 RMW
C-04-04359 RMW
C-05-01291 RMW
C-06-03843 RMW
C-06-04295 RMW

I. DISCOVERY ISSUES

24 In a June 21, 2006 scheduling order, the court instructed the parties to develop a discovery
25 depository to facilitate all parties' access to documents in these coordinated actions. The parties
26 requested a phone conference to resolve three discovery issues: (1) how to divide the cost of setting
27 up and maintaining the discovery depository, (2) who bears the cost of producing documents in
28 Cygnus's possession, and (3) who should host the depository site.

1 **A. Cost of the discovery depository**

2 Cygnus's position is that Cygnus and each defendant should pay an equal share of the cost.
 3 The defense position is that Cygnus should pay half the cost and the defendants collectively should
 4 pay half the cost.

5 If Cygnus had sued only one defendant, presumably each would bear approximately half the
 6 costs of discovery. The court doubts that adding an additional defendant to this hypothetical
 7 situation would greatly increase the discovery required to be produced by Cygnus. Conversely, it is
 8 unlikely that there would be substantial overlap between each defendant's discovery production, so
 9 an additional defendant would significantly add to the discovery deposited. During the phone
 10 conference, Cygnus reported there were seventeen defendants. While Cygnus appears to have
 11 named more than seventeen entities as defendants in these actions, the court will accept seventeen as
 12 the number of defendants important for discovery purposes.

13 Since it appears reasonable to assume Cygnus's discovery production in these actions, except
 14 for its original production, will not be significantly greater than that of an individual defendant, and
 15 there are by Cygnus's estimation eighteen parties important for discovery, the court orders Cygnus to
 16 bear 11 percent of the cost of the discovery depository (approximately 2/18ths or 1/9th) and the
 17 defendants to collectively bear the other 89 percent (approximately 16/18ths or 8/9th). For
 18 simplicity, this ratio will not change as defendants are added or removed from proceedings before
 19 this court. Each participating defendant shall presumptively bear an equal share of the defendants'
 20 portion of the cost, though the defendants are free to make other arrangements among themselves.

21 **B. Cost of producing documents in Cygnus's possession**

22 Cygnus's counsel possesses approximately twenty-five boxes of documents from past cases.
 23 Defendants want access to all these documents. Cygnus argues that it should bear no part of the cost
 24 of producing these documents except for the few it intends to use. According to Cygnus, the
 25 documents include multiple copies of the patents-in-suit, very similar complaints, and material
 26 produced in discovery by defendants in related cases (including some defendants that remain in
 27 these actions). Liaison counsel for the defendants proposed that defendants initially bear the cost of
 28 scanning these documents, with leave to move at a later date to shift some of the cost to Cygnus.

1 This proposal seems reasonable,¹ but the court will wait to hear from liaison counsel a firm estimate
2 of the cost of such production before making a final ruling. Liaison counsel's estimate shall take
3 into consideration the following paragraph.

The defendants will under no circumstances be reimbursed for the costs of scanning copies of the patents-in-suit. The defendants will also not be reimbursed for scanning documents related to lawsuits where there was no discovery or disclosures (voluntary or made under Fed.R.Civ.P. 26), no settlement negotiations, and no default judgments entered. Materials related to reexaminations of the patents-in-suit publicly available on the USPTO website also need not be scanned. Defendants should also be mindful of the limitations of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, such as Fed.R.Civ.P. 26(b)(2)(i), which states that discovery should not be "unreasonably cumulative or duplicative, or . . . obtainable from some other source that is more convenient, less burdensome, or less expensive." Discoverable material in Cygnus's possession includes, at a minimum, settlements not ordered kept confidential by a court, as well as any discovery responses, voluntary disclosures, required disclosures, and settlement-related papers. Cygnus shall provide liaison counsel with an itemization of any confidential documents.

16 || C. Host for depository

17 Defendant Interactive Media Technologies Inc. d/b/a GlobalTel has volunteered to host the
18 depository site at a below-market rate. As counsel estimates this will save several thousand dollars,
19 the court will approve it. GlobalTel's hosting of the site is subject to modification or substitution if
20 the hosting is not being properly performed.

II. LIAISON COUNSEL ISSUES

22 Also at the phone conference, several issues relating to the duties of liaison counsel arose.

A. Defendants who have not consented to representation by liaison counsel

24 The defendants have generally selected Kieran Fallon, counsel for GlobalTel, as liaison
25 counsel. Fallon reports that defendants TelCan Inc., Mike Choren, and Access Network Services

²⁷ ¹ Under *Zubulake v. UBS Warberg LLC*, cited by Cygnus, "the presumption is that the responding party must bear the expense of complying with discovery requests," though "requests that run afoul of the Rule 26(b)(2) proportionality test may subject the requesting party to protective orders under Rule 26(c), including orders conditioning discovery on the requesting party's payment of the costs of discovery." 216 F.R.D. 280, 283 (S.D.N.Y. 2003) (quotation marks omitted).

1 have not responded to his communications. Fallon is, of course, excused from representing those
 2 defendants as liaison counsel unless they subsequently consent; he should, however, make
 3 reasonable efforts to coordinate the efforts of the defendants he does represent with any action taken
 4 by defendants he does not. Sanctions may be awarded against any defendant who fails to cooperate
 5 with liaison counsel.

6 **B. Scope of liaison counsel's duties**

7 The parties sought instruction on whether liaison counsel would be responsible for discovery
 8 disputes involving individual defendants. The court envisions liaison counsel's primary
 9 responsibilities to be coordinating discovery and motion practice. If a discovery dispute arises
 10 involving a single defendant, liaison counsel should ensure Cygnus and other defendants are not
 11 aware of similar issues that could be dealt with at the same time. Liaison counsel should also
 12 attempt to ensure that individual discovery disputes are scheduled in a manner that makes sense for
 13 these actions as a whole. Liaison counsel is not responsible for briefing an individual discovery
 14 dispute (unless it involves GlobalTel); such briefing should be done by counsel for the defendant
 15 involved.

16 **C. New actions**

17 The Panel on Multidistrict Litigation continues to transfer in additional cases, most recently
 18 Case No. 06-03843 from the Eastern District of California and Case No. 06-04295 from the District
 19 of Arizona. Cygnus and liaison counsel shall confer with the defendants in these two actions and
 20 determine whether these new defendants can and should follow the June 21, 2006 scheduling order.
 21 The court would strongly prefer that the new defendants were included in the discovery and motion
 22 practice leading up to the November 20, 2006 hearing. The parties are to report back to the court the
 23 results of these discussions.

24 **III. AT&T'S MOTION FOR CLARIFICATION**

25 AT&T has filed a motion seeking clarification of the June 21, 2006 scheduling order. The
 26 court clarifies the order as follows: Motions for summary judgment of invalidity or infringement
 27 that involve the construction of claim terms, whether the construction is disputed or not, will be
 28 heard on November 20, 2006, or at a later date if the claim construction adopted by the court is not

1 legitimately anticipated by a party and the court gives that party leave to file an additional motion
2 for summary judgment. The twenty-five interrogatories from all defendants jointly shall be
3 propounded in one set. The ten interrogatories allowed each defendant may be propounded in more
4 than one set. Assuming these actions are not resolved on the motions heard on November 20, the
5 court will thereafter allow further discovery.

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7 DATED: 7/14/06
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Ronald M Whyte
RONALD M. WHYTE
United States District Judge

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22 Counsel for plaintiff is responsible for ensuring that involved attorneys not on the above service list
23 receive a copy of this order, if necessary, and shall inform the court of any omissions.

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